

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 258
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols
Coach Pat Head Summitt on becoming the
winningest coach in NCAA basketball history.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are
extremely proud to honor one of Tennessee's most accomplished and renowned citizens; and

WHEREAS, University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt recently
achieved coaching immortality in becoming the winningest coach in NCAA basketball history;
and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2005, Coach Summitt tied former University of North Carolina
coaching legend Dean Smith with 879 victories when Tennessee defeated the Western Carolina
Lady Catamounts, coached by former Lady Vol Kelly Jolly Harper, in the first round of the NCAA
Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, in a spontaneous yet massive display of support and
admiration for their beloved coached of 31 remarkable seasons, more than 13,000 Big Orange
fans and players alike celebrated the Lady Vols' 75-54 victory over the the Purdue Boilermakers
by naming the court at Thompson-Boling Arena "The Summitt" during the post-game
celebration; and

WHEREAS, no coach in the history of Men's or Women's Intercollegiate Athletics coach
has cast such an extraordinary presence over the game of basketball as has Coach Summitt;
and

WHEREAS, she has coached Tennessee to six NCAA national championships during her career at the helm of the Lady Vols and amassed an enviable career record of 880-171, including an NCAA tournament record for most wins at 87; and

WHEREAS, after 31 illustrious seasons at the helm of the Lady Vols basketball program, Coach Summitt trails only former UCLA coaching legend John Wooden in NCAA titles with six, including the NCAA's first back-to-back-to-back women's titles in 1996, 1997 and 1998; and

WHEREAS, basketball purists throughout the country have proclaimed Coach Summitt's 1997-98 team as the best collegiate women's basketball squad of all time; the Lady Vols dominated their opponents by an average of more than 30 points per contest en route to a 39-0 mark, giving UT the most wins and best record in NCAA men's or women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, to the University of Tennessee Pat Summitt is a goodwill ambassador, taking her Lady Vols teams to play basketball in more than 40 states and two foreign countries; to her players she is a mentor and friend who motivates them to believe in themselves and the Lady Vols system each time they take to the court to do battle; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has established herself as the preeminent figure in women's basketball, both in this country and internationally; she won an Olympic silver medal as a member of the 1976 United States Olympic team, and coached USA women's basketball to its first gold medal in Olympic competition in 1984; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 1997 and 1998 Coach Summitt was named the Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio; she also received the Women's Basketball Coach of the Year at the 28th and 32nd Victor Awards, benefiting the City of Hope; and

WHEREAS, Pat was inducted into the National Association for Sport and Physical Education's Hall of Fame in 1996, and in 1997 she received the Casey Award, presented annually by the Kansas City Sports Commission, and the Governor Ned McWherter Award of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, she was the first woman to receive the prestigious John Bunn Award, given by the Basketball Hall of Fame, and was enshrined in the Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame in New York City; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to her outstanding coaching ability, Pat Summitt's Lady Vol teams have made the Sweet Sixteen 23 consecutive years, have participated in seven of the last 10 Final Fours, have compiled 29 consecutive 20 or more win seasons, and won 30 or more games in fourteen seasons; and

WHEREAS, Pat's teams have also compiled an overall NCAA tournament record of 87-17 en route to 15 Final Four appearances, while their 353-141 record against ranked teams is nothing short of remarkable; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most fitting compliment Coach Summitt has received comes from her peers in the coaching profession, as evidenced by the fact that 20 of her assistant coaches have gone on to become college or professional head coaches and 46 of her assistants have become coaches in either the college or professional ranks; and

WHEREAS, simply put, Pat Summitt stands alone among her peers as the preeminent basketball coach in America; and

WHEREAS, this and all of her momentous achievements aside, Pat is most proud of the love and support she shares with her husband, R.B. Summitt; their son, Tyler; her parents, Richard and Hazel Head; and her sister and two brothers, including our own former colleague, Tommy Head; and

WHEREAS, this assembled group of state legislators is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this esteemed Tennessean for her extraordinary coaching accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt on becoming the winningest coach in NCAA basketball history, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success, both personally and professionally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Summitt with this final clause omitted from such copy.